

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 /056 W  
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R 092104Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1365

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOCI, CI, PINT, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF RAUL CARDINAL SILVA

REF: A) SANTIAGO 6783; B) SANTIAGO 6646; C) ROME 5881

1. CARDINAL SILVA CALLED ON AMBASSADOR DEC 7 TO DISCUSS  
POSSIBILITY OF US HELP TO CARITAS CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES  
IN CHILE (SEPTTEL), AND COMMENTED ON OTHER SUBJECTS.

2. ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL: SAID THAT FATHER HESBURGH'S  
AGREEMENT IN JULY WITH GENERAL PINOCHET IN ESSENCE  
PROVIDED FOR RETURN OF SCHOOL TO CONGREGATION, PROVIDED  
TEACHERS WERE NOMINATED WHO WOULD NOT BE CONTROVERSIAL  
("CONFLICTIVO" -- I.E., OF LEFTIST TENDENCE). CARDINAL  
FOUND ON HIS RETURN TO CHILE SOME DAYS AGO THAT EDUCATION  
MINISTRY HAD REJECTED ALL NAMES SUBMITTED, THUS INDICATING  
IN EFFECT THAT CONGREGATION HAS NO WAY OF REGAINING  
CONTROL OF ITS SCHOOL. HE WAS RECOMMENDING TO CONGRE-  
GATION THAT IT REQUEST SOME OUTSIDE, OBJECTIVE REVIEW  
OF PERSONS WHOSE NAMES WERE CONSIDERED, TO DETERMINE  
WHETHER THEY REALLY ARE CONTROVERSIAL, BUT HE WAS  
SKEPTICAL THAT TACTIC WOULD WORK.

3. CARDINAL SAID HE HAD ONCE TOLD EDUCATION MINISTER  
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CASTRO USG WOULD BE BOUND TO REACT TO TAKEOVER OF SCHOOL,

AND ASKED AMBASSADOR WHETHER HE HAD EVER INTERVENED WITH PINOCHET ON SCHOOL PROBLEM. AMBASSADOR REPLIED HE HAD SPOKEN TO CASTRO INFORMALLY, SINCE HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION HAD NOT WANTED TO MAKE ISSUE A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT MATTER, AND WAS PREPARED TO INTERVENE OFFICIALLY IF INSTRUCTED BY DEPARTMENT AFTER A REQUEST BY CONGREGATION.

4. CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY: ASKED ABOUT HIS SELF-SUSPENSION AS UNIVERSITY GRAND CHANCELLOR, CARDINAL SAID THAT MILITARY TAKEOVER OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY AFTER COUP WAS UNPRECEDENTED EVENT IN LATIN AMERICA. GOC-APPOINTED RECTOR HAD ASKED FOR CARDINAL'S CONFIRMATION OF HIS APPOINTMENT; SOME IN UNIVERSITY AND CHURCH CIRCLES HAD THOUGHT CARDINAL SHOULD HAVE NO PART OF IT, BUT HE HAD CONCLUDED IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO START OFF RELATIONSHIP WITH MILITARY GOVERNMENT BY PROVOKING SHOWDOWN. HE THUS CONFIRMED RECTOR'S NOMINATION, WITH UNDERSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF UNIVERSITY WOULD BE COOPERATIVE. RECTOR, HOWEVER, FIRED VICE RECTOR FOR ECONOMICS, IN WHOM CARDINAL HAD CONFIDENCE, AND APPOINTED REPLACEMENT UNKNOWN TO CARDINAL WHO DID NOT APPEAR QUALIFIED. CARDINAL WAS APPROACHED BY VIRTUALLY ALL OF UNIVERSITY DEANS, WHO ASKED FOR HIS SUPPORT, AND HE TOLD RECTOR COOPERATION COULD NOT BE ONE WAY.

5. AGAIN TO AVOID CONFRONTATION, CARDINAL THEN SUSPENDED HIMSELF AS GRAND CHANCELLOR. HE EXPECTED THAT VATICAN WOULD AUTHORIZE HIM TO APPOINT "EXTRAORDINARY" SUBSTITUTE AS GRAND CHANCELLOR WHO COULD TAKE OVER FUNCTION IN SHORT RUN. THIS AT BEST, HOWEVER, WAS ONLY AN EXPEDIENT AND DID NOT RESOLVE REAL PROBLEM.

6. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM CARDINAL'S STATEMENT AND REF C, CHILEAN CHURCH IS PREPARED TO TEMPORIZE AGAIN ON QUESTION OF WHO RUNS CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY. BASIC CONFLICT IS LIKELY TO REMAIN, HOWEVER, AS LONG AS MILITARY GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN DIRECT CONTROL OVER UNIVERSITIES. END COMMENT.

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7. THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT: CARDINAL CONTINUED THAT GOVERNMENT'S EARLIER DIFFIDENCE TOWARD HIM AND CHURCH HAD NOW DISAPPEARED TO EXTENT THAT GOC SEEKS HIS COOPERATION IN HANDLING VARIOUS CHARITABLE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES. GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, HAD MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO COOPERATE MORE BROADLY. CARDINAL WAS SURE USG HAD HAD SIMILAR PROBLEM WITH THIS GOVERNMENT. GOC, HE SAID, WAS IN HANDS OF HARD LINERS WHO SEEK ABSOLUTE CONTROL

OVER CHILEAN SOCIETY AND DO NOT COUNTENANCE PLURALISM.  
IN THIS CONNECTION, CARDINAL FOUND DISTURBING RUMORS  
THAT DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL BONILLA HAD BEEN DETAINED.  
AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WE HAD HEARD BONILLA WAS ILL,  
BUT DID NOT BELIEVE HE WAS DETAINED.  
POPPER

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